LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method for balancing load among a plurality of mirror servers, wherein a user may select and get access to any one of said plurality of mirror servers within an identical web page, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) when said web page is accessed by a client, transmitting not only said web page but also a predetermined script to said client;

(2) automatically executing said script at said client so as to respectively create connections with each of said plurality of mirror servers and measure respective response times; and

(3) selecting a mirror server having the shortest response time for the user to access.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined script is transmitted together with said web page to said client.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said automatically executing said script comprises steps of:

calling a predetermined engine by said client; and

executing said script by said engine, comprising creating connections with each of said plurality of mirror servers and measuring respective response times.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said executing said script is performed in a multi-thread manner for said plurality of mirror servers.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising sending the client information to the mirror servers being connected.

6. (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said client information includes at least one of IP address, domain name, platform name, platform version, and browser type of said client.

7. (original) The method according claim 1, wherein said connections are created through proxies.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said script can be re-started by said user.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising comparing respective response times of said plurality of mirror servers.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

notifying said user of the mirror server having the shortest response time;

receiving user input selecting one of said mirror servers as the selected mirror server; and

establishing access for the user to the selected mirror server.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for balancing load among a plurality of mirror servers said apparatus being installed in a client machine and comprising:

a script analyzer, for analyzing a predetermined script received by a client;

a script executor, for respectively creating connections with each of said plurality of mirror servers and measuring respective response times based on analyzed result from said script analyzer; and

a selector, for selecting the mirror server having the shortest response time for a user of said client machine to access.

12. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said predetermined script is transmitted together with a web page to said client.

13. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said script executor operates in a multi-thread manner for said plurality of mirror servers.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said script executor is additionally adapted to send the client information to the mirror servers being connected.

15. (original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said client information includes at least one of IP address, domain name, platform name, platform version, and browser type of said client.

16. (original) The apparatus according claim 11, wherein said script executor makes connections with mirror servers through the proxies.

17. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said script executor can be re-started by said user so as to execute said script.

18. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said selector comprises a comparator for comparing respective response times of said plurality of mirror servers.

19. (original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selector further comprises:

means for notifying said user of the mirror server having the shortest response time; and

means for receiving selection made by a user on the mirror servers.

20. (previously presented) A program storage device readable by machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for balancing load among a plurality of mirror servers, wherein a user may select and get access to any one of said plurality of mirror servers within an identical web page, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) when said web page is accessed by a client, receiving not only said web page but also a predetermined script at said client;

(2) automatically executing said script at said client so as to respectively create connections with each of said plurality of mirror servers and measure respective response times; and

(3) selecting a mirror server having the shortest response time for the user to access.